(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) No proposal is under consideration of the Government to set up Special Courts for FERA cases.

Seizures of Goods

1698. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of goods like gold, silver, narcotics, electronic items, clothes, foreign exchange etc. siezed at national/international airports and other parts of the country during each of the last three years and current year State-wise;

(b) the reasons for increase in the smuggling of the said items; and

(c) the remedial steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Seizure of Brown Sugar

1699. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 7 kgs brown sugar worth seven crores of rupees has been seized on Indore-Bhopal route;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ordered any probe in this matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the culprits; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. 7.070 kgs. of brown sugar (heroin) was reported to have been seized by P. Station Khajuri Sadak, Distt. Bhopal on 20.2.97 However no precise valuation of narcotic drug which are often of indeterminate strength and compositlon and are liable for destruction can be made.

(b) Yes, Sir. The follow up investigations were intiated by MP Police immediately.

(c) The three accused were arrested. Investigations are in progress. Crime No. 2497, U/s 8/18/21 of NDPS Act, 1985 has been registered against them.

(d) Government of India is fully aware of the problem of narcotics trafficking and have taken several steps in this regard which include re-activisation of enforcement agencies throughout the country, training of the officers, holding of regular Coordination Meeting, development of bilateral agreement with several countries and holding of talks with Pakistan and Myanmar.

[English]

Funding of Infrastructure Projects

1700. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether In a bid to overcome the bottleneck in funding the infrastructure projects a meeting was held in Delhi between Secretaries of power, Telecom, Surface Transport and chiefs of IDBI, IFCI and Chairman of various nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main decisions arrived at the meeting;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up an inter-institutional Group under the aegis of IDBI in this respect;

(d) if so, the composition and the main terms and conditions of the Group;

(e) whether this Group is also likely to suggest ways and means for infrastructure in the state sector also;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the extent to which this board is likely to be helpful in funding the infrastructure projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (g) In a meeting held on July 15, 1997 at New Delhi on infrastructure financing wherein representatives of various Ministries, major financial institutions and selected public sector banks participated, it was decided to nominate Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) as the nodal agency for coordinating among institu-tions by forming an Inter Institutional Group (IIG) which will study the issues connected with financing of infrastructure projects. The IIG has constituted four sub groups to study financing issues relating to four sectors viz. power, telecom, ports and roads. These sub groups would also interact with concerned Ministries/Departments. The IIG will study various issues such as financial constraints, funding pattern, risk mitigation, bankability of projects etc. It is not proposed to have State by State Plans but infrastructure sector would be looked at for the country as a whole.

[Translation]

Appellate Tribunals for Customs/Excise

1701. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an appellate tribunal to solve the cases related to customs duty and central excise duty;